

Linking Girls to the Land Programs and Opportunities

Linking Girls to the Land Council Grants

Girl Scouts of the USA's Elliott Wildlife Values Project, along with the federal natural resource agencies partnering in the Linking Girls to the Land program, have contributed funds and support for Linking Girls to the Land Council Grant projects. These grants of up to \$5,000 encourage Girl Scouts to become more involved in natural resource issues and explore careers related to wildlife and natural resource conservation. They encourage federal and state agencies to participate in the Girl Scout program by helping with conservation related award work, service projects, and Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold Award projects.

Program History: Since the founding of the grant program in 1998, 74 Girl Scout councils have been awarded a total of 83 grants. These projects served more than 46,000 girls and adults. Before the Linking Girls to the Land Council Grant program was established, many councils had never worked with natural resource agencies and had not budgeted for supplies and other administrative costs. Additionally, many agencies rarely directed their declining resources to environmental education efforts. The availability of "seed money" brings together the ideas, staff time, and professional expertise to create a program and an outdoor experience for girls that otherwise would not happen. Projects include cooperation with local natural resource professionals, a communication and media plan, and post-event follow-up and evaluation.

Who can submit a Linking Girls to the Land Council Grant Application? Any Girl Scout adult volunteer, council staff member, campus Girl Scout, or Girl Scout 14-17 who has the full support of her council can submit a Linking Girls to the Land Council Grant application for up to \$5,000. All projects must be accomplished in partnership with at least one federal or state natural resource agency.

For selection criteria and application information see the Sample Linking Girls to the Land Application Packet in the back of the Resource Guide.



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Linking Girls to the Land Projects

The Linking Girls to the Land initiative encourages girls to become involved in conservation and natural resource issues and careers on a national and local level. Usually Girl Scout councils develop projects that fall into three areas:

- environmental education;
- outdoor skills development; and
- volunteer service.

It is not possible for all Linking Girls to the Land projects to be funded through the Linking Girls to the Land Council Grant fund. We encourage Girl Scout councils and natural resource agencies to develop partnerships and projects that meet the needs of all parties involved and seek creative ways of making the projects sustainable.

Project ideas can be simple or elaborate. Girl Scout councils and professionals from federal and state agencies may work together to:

- hold an event at a historic site exploring archaeological digs;
- build an accessible walking trail;
- count migratory birds or survey plant communities;
- conduct a low-impact camping workshop for girls;
- co-sponsor a National Public Lands Day event;
- offer wildlife research opportunities for girls, such as catching, identifying and tagging fish;
- involve girls as interpreters at an education center in a natural area;
- run a day camp where girls can make bird and bat boxes or create brush piles;
- co-host a career day with hands-on activities; or
- participate in a soil erosion control project, such as replanting a stream bank.

There are many successful Linking Girls to the Land projects, and 10 are outlined below.

A Walk in Our Urban Forest. Three hundred Girl Scouts were introduced to urban forestry and non-traditional careers for women in two events sponsored by Pine Valley Girl Scout Council, in Georgia. Professional women from various Federal, state, county agencies, and local universities led hands-on environmental activities. Partners included the Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and others.

Create a Rehabilitated Environment. Broward County Girl Scout Council in Florida partnered with Division of Natural Resource Protection of Broward County for an event with 150 Girl Scouts to remove non-native plants from a Girl Scout property. The Girl Scouts also developed and will maintain a nature trail that highlights native plants. A patch program was created, with a focus on native versus exotic plants.

Eco-Island. Moccasin Bend Girl Scout Council in Tennessee held an event with activities that integrated hands-on learning, math, science, and technology at natural resource areas in urban settings. More than 400 Girl Scouts participated, at three different sites depending on their age level. Activities also promoted responsible environmental stewardship through habitat restoration. Agency partners

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were the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Tennessee Valley Authority, and the Tennessee Department of Agriculture's Department of Forestry.

Fisheries Biology Field Day. More than 375 Juniors (grades 4-6) from Pacific Peaks Girl Scout council (near Olympia, WA) explored fisheries biology during three spring field days. Girls saw the "critters" in the water, learned about their ecological roles, watched Dr. Deanna Stouder and three other Pacific Northwest Research Station scientists collect the fish and other aquatic animals, and learned about local Native American connections to fish.

Fort Ord Lands Habitat Restoration and Monitoring Project. Girl Scouts of Monterey Bay, California sponsored hands-on service projects on Federal land that is part of the former Fort Ord military base. Girl Scouts learned how to use compasses, clinometers, and Global Positioning Systems. In an ongoing effort, they make observations and record data for grassland research, collect seeds, restore native plants to control erosion, and more.

Hamlin Habitat Environmental Center. This project is creating a sustainable and wildlife-friendly environment surrounding a high-use Sangre de Cristo Girl Scout Council property. Girls are involved in the planning and design of the center and its programs that will promote wildlife education, enhance environmental stewardship, and highlight the use of solar energy. Girls can earn a special patch, Southwest Environmentalist, when they complete special program activities at the Center.

Leave No Trace Training. Spanish Trails Girl Scout Council created and is expanding a network of Girl Scout volunteers who teach Leave No Trace camping skills to Girl Scouts at all age levels. A training weekend was held in the fall and an event with 200 Girl Scouts was held in the spring at Portrero Girl Scout Camp, in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, and four other Girl Scout Councils. Mohawk Pathways Girl Scout Council in New York completed the Leave No Trace training for staff members and adult volunteers, who then created a patch project and conducted an event for 200 girls. The Council's resident camp lies within the Adirondack State Park, and the training was conducted with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the Adirondack Mountain Club.

Scouting Out Your Future in the Wild. What if your primary workplace had no walls or doors and the rising sun or the changing tide dictated your schedule? Or, what if your daily interactions were mostly with pods of whales or flocks of birds? For many women, these possibilities are realities because they work in careers in natural resource management. Through an immersion weekend, Seal of Ohio and Heart of Ohio Girl Scout Councils collaborated with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to showcase the fascinating opportunities and careers that exist in fields concerning the environment. During the weekend the participants were linked with positive female role models, attended forums to share environmental concerns, and created a community of environmental activists. The girls also enjoyed a host of unique hands-on experiences in nature such as telemetry, bird banding, animal tracking, fishing, and photography.

Vanishing Footprints. Swift Water Council in New Hampshire trained about 500 Cadette and Senior Girl Scouts and adult volunteers in the Leave No Trace and Project Learning Tree programs. These trained girls and leaders brought these activities into Brownie and Junior Girl Scout troops. The council partnered with the Forest Service, New Hampshire Project Learning Tree, and the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests.

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Eco-Expo. Girl Scouts of the Nation's Capitol held three Eco-Expo day-long events, with hands-on activities conducted by professionals from the Environmental Protection Agency, Fish and Wildlife Service, Forest Service, National Park Service, and others. Eco-Boxes, containing materials and instructions for easy-to-do environmental activities and experiments, were made and are used by Girl Scout troops. Both projects aim to increase Girl Scouts' understanding of key environmental issues such as ecosystem monitoring and conservation of natural resources.



Girl Scouts enjoy the Eco Expo funded through a Linking Girls to the Land Council Grant.



Linking Girls to the Land partner, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, teaches Girl Scouts about wildlife through a creative game.

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Tips for Girl Scouts as they develop Linking Girls to the Land project partnerships:

- Start with the local conservation or community need.
- Know your local population and target audience; incorporate the diversity of your community into your project design.
- Choose issues that interest the girls.
- Prepare your girls and have them approach the agency.
- Be prepared to explain your project needs, the Girl Scouts' age range, skill level, and project time commitment to the agency you wish to collaborate with.
- Ask the agency about existing partnership opportunities with possible volunteer service projects, career programs, special events, or nature conservation activities that are already in the planning process of the local agency.

Before a Girl Scout calls a natural resource agency, she should be thinking about or have answers to the following questions:

- What is the federal natural resource agency that you think would be best to work with? (Do some research on different agencies). Why?
- What are the mission statements of the federal natural resource agencies you want to approach? (This information can be found in this Resource Guide or on the agency's Web page). How do they differ from one another?
- How could your project idea meet and fit into the mission of the federal natural resource agency?
- What are some of the things that your project and Girl Scouts can do for federal natural resource agencies?
- What are some of the current programs that are supported or sponsored by the federal natural resource agency?
- Are there certain times of the year that are especially busy for the agency? How could this affect the completion of your project?
- Based on your project idea, what is the job title of the person that you should contact at the federal natural resource agency? (The Environmental Education Coordinator? The Volunteer Coordinator? A Ranger?)
- What is the federal natural resource agency representative's name and phone number?

Before you call, also know the answers to the following questions about Linking Girls to the Land, your project, and Girl Scouting:

- What is "Linking Girls to the Land"?
- Why do you want to do a Linking Girls to the Land project?
- What is a brief description of your project idea?
- How many Girl Scouts will participate in running the event or project?
- How many Girl Scouts will be helped or taught by your project?
- Will your community in general be helped? How?
- Are there other organizations, businesses, or clubs that you will be working with on your project?
- What funds and skills do you bring to the project?

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Leave No Trace Program

What is it? The Leave No Trace (LNT) program teaches outdoor skills and ethics. It develops confidence in leaders and girls so that they can plan and be prepared for the situations they encounter in the outdoors and enjoy their outdoor recreation experiences. These minimum-impact camping concepts are strongly woven into the Girl Scout handbooks, recognitions, and training objectives, and girls have been taught since 1912 to "leave a place better than you found it."



Leave No Trace Principles. The LNT concepts were developed by scientists at the US Forest Service, the National Outdoor Leadership School, and federal natural resource agencies. These concepts are taught as seven skills and principles:

- Plan Ahead and Prepare
- Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
- Dispose of Waste Properly
- Leave What You Find
- Minimize Campfire Impacts
- Respect Wildlife
- Be Considerate of Other Visitors

The LNT program has developed regional adaptations of the principles and skills for the following ecosystems and areas: Rocky Mountains, Southeastern States, Backcountry Horse Use, Western River Corridors, Temperate Coastal Zones, Desert and Canyon Country, Pacific Northwest, Rock Climbing, Alaskan Tundra, Northeast Mountains, and Sierra Nevada.

Educational Materials. Target audiences are the outdoor trainers and adult development/volunteer directors, with the objective that LNT principles are taught explicitly in the outdoor trainer curriculum. The agencies often provide staff to assist in LNT "Train the Trainer" courses that are offered to council volunteers, staff, and older girls.

The LNT principles are written in the *Soft Paths* book, shown in a *Soft Paths* video, and printed in 11 ecosystem-specific brochures. All are available from LNT, Inc. and the National Outdoor Leadership School in Lander, WY, through the Web site www.lnt.org. "Hangtags" have been produced in Spanish and English for outdoor equipment that include the basic LNT principles for children. There is a vivid purple patch earned by Trainers and a Girl Scout-specific patch available for girls to earn and purchase. LNT, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation, was established in Boulder, CO with the purpose of promoting responsible use of the outdoors and educating users to Leave No Trace principles.

For more information on Leave No Trace, refer to the organization's Web site www.lnt.org or contact: Liz Garland at (916) 669-2777 or email liz_garland@tdogs.org.

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Leave No Trace Master Educator Scholarships

The number of Girl Scout professionals and volunteers certified as Master Trainers has slowly been increasing. These trainers now offer excellent opportunities for councils to train adults and older girls as LNT Trainers (a 16-hour certification) and fully integrate these concepts into the ongoing camping programs and leader certification for outdoor activities. For example, Spanish Trails GS Council in Southern California gave the LNT Trainer course in 1998 and 2000, Tierra del Oro incorporated LNT skills into a national Wider Opportunity in 2003 and certified all participants as LNT trainers, and Fairwinds GS Council in Michigan trained most summer camp staff as LNT trainers.

Scholarship Information. Each year the Girl Scouts of the USA's Linking Girls to the Land initiative offers approximately 20 scholarships for those interested in becoming Leave No Trace Master Educators. The goal of this scholarship program, funded by the U.S. Forest Service, is to provide Leave No Trace Master Educator Course scholarships for adult Girl Scouts interested in communicating and integrating the Leave No Trace outdoor skills and ethics message into their council's outdoor program. Grants recipients receive assistance in the form of a \$650 to \$765 scholarship to cover the full tuition for a Leave No Trace Master Educator Course. Tuition includes all meals and transportation during the course, including food, instruction, group equipment, and curriculum materials. Participants are responsible for travel to and from their course location, and sometimes for lodging while not in the field.

Leave No Trace Master Educator Course Description. The five day Leave No Trace Master Educator Course provides participants with a comprehensive overview of Leave No Trace techniques through practical application in a field setting. The first day is spent in a classroom, introducing the course, reviewing gear, and packing. The remaining four days are spent on a short hiking, sea kayaking, horse packing, rafting or canoeing trip, learning and practicing the principles of Leave No Trace. Currently, all Leave no Trace Masters Educator Courses are offered by the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) and the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC). Leave No Trace courses are designed for people in good physical condition with a strong interest in outdoor recreation, a commitment to training others, and a desire to protect wilderness resources. Applicants must have backcountry backpacking, sea kayaking, or canoeing experience relevant to the offered course in order to attend. Applicants must also have completed a two day Leave No Trace train the trainer course. Recipients are expected to teach at least two Leave No Trace trainer courses per year.

Application Process. The Girl Scout Leave No Trace Master Educator Scholarship Application Packet is included in the back of this Resource Guide. (See Sample Application Forms)

Leave No Trace Master Educator courses listings, GSUSA scholarship application forms, and Leave No Trace Master Course application forms are available at www.Lnt.org, or call LNT, Inc. (800) 466-2721. For additional course information contact: National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) Michael Cheek (307) 335-2213, michael_cheek@nols.edu or Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC), Dara Houdek (603) 466-2721 x209, dhoudek@amcinfo.org. For more information on the scholarship program please contact: Liz Garland at (916) 669-2777 or email liz_garland@tdogs.org



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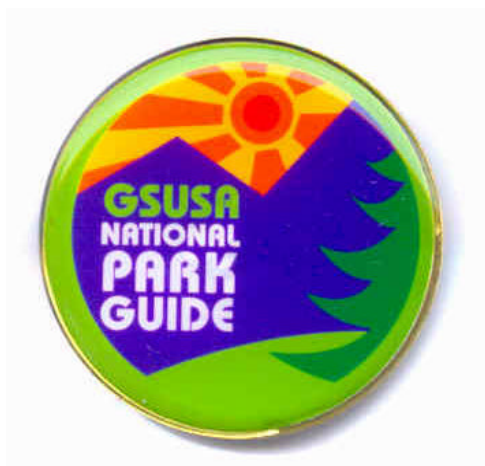
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National Park Guide Opportunity

The Girl Scouts of the USA National Park Guide Opportunity is a result of the partnership between the national coalition of Americans for National Parks (ANP), National Park Service (NPS), and Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA). This expansion of the GSUSA initiative, Linking Girls to the Land, is designed for competitively selected Girl Scouts (ages 14-17). Participating Girl Scouts will assist national park interpretive staff and Volunteers in the Parks (VIP's) in enhancing their community's understanding and appreciation of the resources that their local national parks protect. Upon completion of 16 hours of training and volunteerism with the park, including leading younger Girl Scout troops through the park, Girl Scouts (ages 11-17) are eligible to receive the GSUSA National Park Guide pin. The younger Girl Scouts are eligible to receive the GSUSA National Park Protector patch and are encouraged to post their photos to the National Parks Scrapbook at: www.americansfornationalparks.org/scrapbook.

Opportunity Objectives

- Engage the interests of Girl Scouts (ages 11-17) with their local national park site.
- Enhance Girl Scouts' understanding of the resources the national park protects.
- Develop Girl Scouts' understanding of the National Park Service's mission and how interpretation helps achieve that mission.
- Provide an opportunity for volunteer and career exploration with the National Park Service.
- Help address the staffing needs of national park sites across the country.
- Bring attention to and understanding of the funding needs of the national parks to a broader audience and engage Girl Scouts and their families as park advocates.



For more information please contact:

Elizabeth McCoy, Consultant, Council Innovations, Girl Scouts of the USA
420 Fifth Avenue, 15th Floor New York NY 10018 T. (212) 852-8681
emccoy@girlscouts.org

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Water Drop Patch, EPA

What is it?

The Water Drop Patch Project is co-sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Girl Scouts of the USA. Girl Scouts can learn about water resources, complete environmental education and community service activities, and earn the Water Drop Patch.



The purpose of the project is to encourage girls to:

- make a difference in their communities by becoming watershed and wetlands stewards;
- use their skills and their knowledge to educate others in their communities about the need to protect the nation's valuable water resources;
- explore the natural world to gain an interest in science and math; and
- use the Internet as a source of information

What kinds of opportunities are available?

The Water Drop Patch Project offers learning opportunities to Girl Scouts in watersheds, non-point source pollution, wetlands, and groundwater/drinking water. Service learning and activities range from "do's and don'ts around the home" to stream clean-ups to building your own aquifer. Girls of all program levels can participate.

Why should Girl Scouts participate in the Water Drop Patch Project?

By participating in the Water Drop Patch Project individual Girl Scouts, troops, or groups gain hands-on skills in water management and resource conservation efforts. Each project can be conducted in conjunction with an EPA or other federal or state water quality agency representative, thereby providing career mentoring to interested Girl Scouts. Since the Water Drop Patch project can be completed anywhere and because there is a minimal cost (the cost of the patch) for Girl Scouts, this project is easily accessible to every girl, **everywhere**.

How is the patch distributed and troop recognition received?

There is a Water Drop patch order form and application for troop recognition form on the Water Drop Patch Web site and in the project booklet. To Order Water Drop patches (at \$1.00 each), please write to:

Membership, Program & Diversity,
15th Floor, Water Drop Patch Project
Girl Scouts of the USA
420 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10018-2798

Where is additional information about the program and projects?

The project booklet can be located on the Internet at: www.epa.gov/adopt/patch/. Copies of the booklet are also available FREE by calling the National Service Center for Environmental Publications at (800) 490-9198. The project was jointly developed by the US Environmental Protection Agency and the Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital.

To date, over 10,000 girls are proudly wearing a Water Drop Patch.

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STUDIO 2B_{sm} destinations

(formerly called Wider Opportunities)

Teens are offered "STUDIO 2B_{sm} destinations," as 10 to 14 day events that are organized by local councils or the Girl Scouts of the USA. STUDIO 2B_{sm} destinations incorporate advanced skills and learning about a focused area or subject. Participants are ages 14-17 from across the U.S. and are selected based on a national application process. There is continuing high interest in programs with advanced outdoor skills, national history, and cultural learning. Agency natural resource professionals greatly enhance the programs, serve as role models, and lead volunteer service activities. Many of these teens already have an interest in outdoor careers, science education, and leadership—and their awareness of natural resource careers through these sessions will enhance agency recruitment of such young women.

Natural resource-based STUDIO 2B_{sm} destinations

In 2004, numerous STUDIO 2B_{sm} destinations will focus on outdoor adventures, advanced skills, leadership, and career exploration in natural resources. Natural resource professionals will lead field trips and make presentations at many of these.

- Aquatic Adventure, Girl Scouts of Kentuckiana, Benton, KY
- Aquatic Biology, Scuba Diving, Winter Sports, Wilderness First Responder, and Yes, Ma'am Captain! (at Great Lakes Maritime Academy), various dates at the Fair Winds Girl Scout Council camp near Traverse City, MI
- Canoe Country Rendezvous, Land of Lakes Girl Scout Council, MN
- Expedition: Michigan 2004 (backpacking, bicycling, boating, sailing), Fair Winds Girl Scout Council, at camp near Traverse City, MI
- Great Lakes Aquatic Biology, Fair Winds Girl Scout Council, at camp near Traverse City, MI
- Heart of Appalachia, Girl Scouts Heart of Ohio, Zanesville, OH
- Montana Magic (flyfishing, hiking), Girl Scouts of Big Sky Council, Great Falls, MT
- Mountain Majesty (backpacking, wilderness skills), Girl Scouts of Mile High Council, Denver, CO
- Treasures of the Emerald Coast (swim, sea, sail), Girl Scouts of Northwest Florida, Pensacola, FL
- Outward Bound events for Girl Scouts at various locations, focused on backpacking, canoeing, kayaking rock climbing, sailing, sea kayaking, and skiing
- SeaWorld Adventure Camps focused on animal care and marine biology, in Orlando, San Antonio, and San Diego

For more information visit the

STUDIO 2B_{sm} destinations Web site

www.studio2b.org/escape/destinations/

or contact:

MariClare Krzyzewski

Manager, STUDIO 2B_{sm} destinations

Girl Scouts of the USA

420 Fifth Avenue, 15th Floor

New York, NY 10018

Tel: (212) 852-6537 Fax: (212) 852-6515

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Natural Science in the Tetons

As part of a STUDIO 2B_{sm} destinations sponsored by the Elliott Wildlife Values Project, 15 girls and 15 adult partners from across the United States learn wildlife biology and naturalist skills under the instruction of Teton Science School instructors, each year in the third week of July. Girls and adults learn how to keep a naturalist's journal, get up close to some of nature's most intriguing creatures—wild birds—become part of a national bird-banding effort, and learn how the local ecosystem functions. They live among the pronghorn antelope, bison, coyotes, and ospreys, and hike the Grand Teton National Park with views that will leave them breathless. As part of the event experience, each team is responsible for designing a project or training to share with their council and community about what they learned during the STUDIO 2B_{sm} destination. Projects will be completed within the following year.

For more details and application information:

Visit the Girl Scouts STUDIO 2B_{sm} destinations Web site www.studio2b.org/escape/destinations/
You may also contact Jodi Stewart at (212) 852-8076 or jstewart@girlscouts.org.



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NOAA Aquarius Project



What is it?

The Aquarius Project is an intensive week of ocean science and discovery for a nationally selected group of six Girl Scouts sponsored by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Girl Scouts of the USA.

Where is it?

The event is based out of the National Undersea Research Center's (University of North Carolina at Wilmington) Key Largo, Florida field station, home to the world's only underwater laboratory - the Aquarius Habitat.

When is it?

This five-day event occurs annually, usually during the month of July or August.

What is the event about?

Girl Scouts learn the fundamentals of ocean exploration, coral reef ecology, maritime archaeology, and habitat preservation. Lectures and field work may include a SCUBA dive to the Aquarius Habitat to visit mission scientists at work; working alongside marine resource scientists on the coral reefs; SCUBA diving to numerous sites, including a shipwreck site in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary; and, visiting habitats unique to the region such as the Everglades National Park. In the Aquarius Project, girls learn about ocean science by hands-on experience and interaction with mentor scientists. Each participating Girl Scout devises an outreach plan for taking what they learned home to their schools, Girl Scout councils, and communities.

Who can apply?

Any registered Girl Scout who is:

- SCUBA certified and has received open water certification.
- Comfortable in open water.
- Committed to ocean science, conservation, and exploration.
- Willing to share her experience with her council after the event.
- Between 14-17 at the time of the event.

What are the costs?

This event is sponsored by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office of Ocean Exploration. **There is NO event fee.** Travel costs are fully funded. Food and lodging costs will be reimbursed to the participant after the event. Each participant is required to bring all necessary diving gear with her to the event (excluding tanks and weight belts).

For more details and application information:

Visit the NOAA Explorer Web site at

<http://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/projects/03aquarius/gscouts/welcome.html>, or contact:

Joanne Flanders

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Office of Oceans Exploration

1315 East West Highway, Room 10145

Silver Spring, MD 20910

T. (301) 713-9444 x179 F. (301) 713-4252

Joanne.Flanders@noaa.gov www.noaa.gov and www.oceanexplorer.noaa.gov

(You may also contact Jodi Stewart at (212) 852-8076 or jstewart@girlscouts.org.)

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Examples of National Conservation Events

(See Calendar of Conservation Events)

National Public Trails Day

What is National Trails Day? The Girl Scouts of the USA join the American Hiking Society, many Federal and local agencies, and the public in celebrating National Trails Day. It is an annual event on the first Saturday in June to promote awareness of and appreciation for America's 200,000 miles of trails and to encourage cooperative efforts among different trail users, including hikers, bicyclists, equestrians, walkers, runners, and others who enjoy being on the trail. This year's event to discover, learn about, and celebrate trails will be Saturday, June 5, 2004, so it makes a great end-of-the-year troop activity. Girl Scouts can participate in already-planned community events on National Trails Day, or they can help organize an event. In the past, these have included new trail dedications, workshops, educational exhibits, equestrian and mountain bike rides, canoe events, trail maintenance, and hikes on America's favorite trails. There are more than 3,000 events and a million participants annually.

How can you find more information about local National Trails Day events? The American Hiking Society is the overall coordinator, but all of the activities are planned locally by community groups, four federal agencies, National Park Service, Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and the Federal Highway Administration, and corporate and retail sponsors (an Event Organizers manual is available for Girl Scout Leaders from the American Hiking Society). Additional information can be obtained from local hiking clubs and outdoor equipment retailers, or from the American Hiking Society at (301) 565-6704 or ntd@americanhiking.org.



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National Public Lands Day (NPLD)

What is National Public Lands Day?

NPLD is a Saturday in late September when thousands of people volunteer in our parks and on our public lands. Begun in 1994, it is the largest volunteer event that benefits America's public lands.

What do the volunteers do?

Volunteers join the staff and managers of our public lands. They build trails, restore wetlands, improve wildlife habitats, battle invasive species, harvest native seeds, and sow wild flowers.

Who organizes National Public Lands Day?

The National Environmental Education & Training Foundation (NEETF)

What is the National Environmental Education & Training Foundation's mission?

Forging public/private partnerships, The National Environmental Education & Training Foundation encourages people to recognize their connections to the environment, and to take innovative and effective steps that enhance the environment. One of the signature projects is National Public Lands Day, a partnership with federal, state, and local land management agencies. Volunteers help to complete needed work on the public spaces where Americans go for recreation and enjoyment.

Who organizes National Public Lands Day events? Who are the partners?

Sometimes individuals or our partner organizations organize an event. Many events are organized by our federal agency partners:

USDI Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
USDI Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)
USDA Forest Service (FS)
USDI National Park Service (NPS)

What opportunities are available to Girl Scouts through NPLD?

Since the beginning, Girl Scouts have enjoyed the outdoors. With NPLD, Scouts take the next step: active stewardship of the environment. Across the country girls are already planting trees, installing owl boxes, mending fences, and weeding plant nurseries. One troop's NPLD project in 2003 led to the adoption of a trailhead as its year-long service project. NPLD dovetails with many scouting goals. It also gives Girl Scouts ages 11-17 an opportunity to plan a significant project with officials, engage their community in environmental stewardship, and make a real difference in their world. Girl Scouts working on NPLD have been featured in *Parade* magazine and in *Girl's Life*.

Where do I find more information about National Public Lands Day?

Contact: Patti Pride
Director, National Public Lands Day
National Environmental Education & Training Foundation
1707 H Street, NW – Suite 900
Washington, DC 20036
Tel: (202) 261-6474 Fax: (202) 261-6464
pride@neetf.org
www.npld.com

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World Water Monitoring Day

What is it?

World Water Monitoring Day, held annually on October 18th, is an event designed to educate people of all ages, in all nations, about the value of clean water and the role of water quality monitoring. World Water Monitoring Day offers participants an opportunity to use a simple test kit to take water quality samples in their local streams, lakes, bays, or wetlands, enter their data into an international database, and take part in activities that educate us all about our role in protecting clean water. October 18th was selected because it is the anniversary of the landmark 1972 Clean Water Act.

Why is monitoring important?

We need to monitor in order to answer basic questions about our waters. Can we safely swim in them? Can fish and other aquatic animals live in them? Can we safely eat the fish we catch? Is the quality of our waters improving? Today we can't always answer these questions. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is working to build partnerships with other federal agencies, states, local governments, watershed groups, the private sector, and the public to improve the comprehensiveness and effectiveness of water monitoring programs.

Who is organizing this event?

World Water Monitoring Day is planned and coordinated by America's Clean Water Foundation and the International Water Association, in partnership with a number of other organizations including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Local monitoring and educational activities are organized by participating watershed organizations, schools, government agencies, and individual citizens.

How can Girl Scouts participate?

Beginning in mid-July of each year, Girl Scout troops and Councils can order an easy-to-use water testing kit from the World Water Monitoring Web site at www.worldwatermonitoringday.org. The kit contains instructions on how to test for four key parameters: dissolved oxygen, water temperature, pH, and water clarity. Troops and Councils need to select an appropriate site for monitoring and monitor the site between September 18th and October 18th. The kit includes safety instructions, which should be followed carefully. Once Girl Scouts have recorded their data, they enter their findings in the international database available on the World Water Monitoring Day Web site. Troops and Councils may also want to get involved in other fun activities in their area, like water festivals and stream cleanups.

How do I find out more?

Visit www.worldwatermonitoringday.org for more information, to order test kits (international orders and bulk orders accepted), register your site(s), enter your data, and find out what's going on in your area and around the globe. To learn more about volunteer environmental monitoring, visit www.epa.gov/owow/monitoring/volunteer.

LINKING GIRLS TO THE LAND

2004 Calendar of Conservation Events

January 1	On January 1, 1970, the National Environmental Policy Act was enacted to require the assessment of impacts of federal actions on the environment
March 1	On March 1, 1872, Yellowstone National Park, the Nation's first national park, was established by an act signed by President Ulysses S. Grant
March 13	On March 13, 1903, the National Wildlife Refuge System was established
April 15-21	National Wildlife Week
April 22	Earth Day
April	National Park Week (annually in April during the week of Earth Day)
April 27	On April 27, 1935, the Soil Conservation Service was created in the Department of Agriculture
May 5-11	Drinking Water Week (EPA)
May 11	International Migratory Bird Day (FWS)
May 11-18	National River Cleanup Week (EPA)
May 11-18	American Wetlands Week (EPA)
June 1-9	National Fishing and Boating Week (FWS)
June 5	World Environment Day (NRCS)
June 5	National Public Trails Day (first Saturday in June)
July 24-30	Natural Science in the Tetons STUDIO 2B _{sm} destination (GSUSA)
August	NOAA Aquarius Project (GSUSA and NOAA)
August 4	On August 4, 1954, the Small Watershed Program was enacted to help communities protect, improve, and develop watersheds
August 9	Smokey Bear's birthday
August 25	National Park Founder's Day (NPS). On August 25, 1916, the National Park Service was created by an act signed by President Woodrow Wilson
September 21	International Coastal Cleanup (EPA)
September 18	National Public Lands Day
October 5	National Estuary Day (EPA)
October 18	World Water Monitoring Day (EPA)
October 13-19	National Wildlife Refuge Week
October 15	Linking Girls to the Land Council Grant applications due (GSUSA)
October 18	On October 18, 1972, the Clean Water Act was enacted
November 18	On November 18, 1977, the Soil and Water Resources Conservation Act was enacted to further the conservation, protection, and enhancement of the nation's natural resources for sustained use
December 23	On December 23, 1985, the 1985 Farm Bill was passed, the first farm bill to include a conservation title and the first to link conservation to eligibility for USDA program benefits

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